

From the start more concerned about common good than those states that just grew. As long as I can remember the country school had an annual visit by a doctor, and by the County Supt. of Schools. Now Penna. is as political as any of the states.

I well remember my first day in school. Rose [Olive (Curtis) Wihtol] took me as a visitor for the Christmas party. The teacher wore a dark dress with a little white apron. I was, maybe 4. I just wouldn't keep quiet, so the teacher put me on a stool by the window. I had a lovely view of the harness and sleighs, with sleigh bells going up the opposite hill. I didn't know that it was supposed to be punishment until I got home. My husband [James P. McCue] always spoke about the country school as being the original progressive education. I guess my father [George Augustus Curtis] was my first real teacher. He introduced me to the "golden age" of American literature (the 18 hundreds). He did continuously seek knowledge and passed it along. I learned to tell time by the sun when I was a wee child. He was never too busy to answer any of my questions. One of the really fine teachers we had was Cousin Carrie [Inez (Curtis) Loomis]. She taught at Curtis Valley when Norvelle [Elliott (Curtis) Kern] and I were in the 7th grade. She tutored us in 8th grade work. We took the Common School exam and passed. It was a pride to her, all her life, that all of her students passed. Juanita [(Curtis) Gelder] and Beatrice 8th grade, and Norvelle and I 7th.

The Curtis Valley School was built by Grandfather [Henry Banning] Curtis, so that his grandchildren would have a school close at hand. It always remained a part of the Curtis estate. Grandfather was President of the School Board. This I found out when I got some of the old letters. There was an application for a job by [Emily Irene] Rena (Stanton) Curtis. This I turned over to Carrie.

